

MEMO

TO Sponsors of the School Nutrition Program

FROM Vonda Ramp, M.S., R.D.
State Director, Child Nutrition Programs

DATE February 15, 2023

RE USDA Waiver Requests for 2022-23 School Year: Non-Congregate Meals During Emergency School Closures

MESSAGE:

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Division of Food and Nutrition (DFN), has requested a waiver from the following regulations for the 2022-23 school year to facilitate the continuation of meal service in the event of emergency school closures.

Use of SFSP and SSO Unanticipated School Closures (To be used when schools buildings are closed **with no virtual learning**). The requested waivers in this section apply to SFSP and SSO during unanticipated school closures, when school buildings are closed and virtual classes are not offered. These waivers would be effective through April 30, 2023.

- Non-Congregate Meal Service during Unanticipated School Closures [42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(1)(A), 42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(1)(D), and 7 CFR 225.6(i)(15)]
- Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-Up: Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-Up during Unanticipated School Closures [42 U.S.C. 1761(f)(3) and 7 CFR 210.10(a), 220.2 (Breakfast), 220.8(a), 225.2 (Meals), and 225.9(d)(7)]
- Meal Service Times for Unanticipated School Closures [7 CFR 225.16(c)(1), (2), and (3)]
- Service of Meals at School Sites for Unanticipated School Closures [42 U.S.C. 1761(c)(1) and 7 CFR 225.6(h)(1)(iv)]

Use of National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program (To be used when school buildings are closed **with virtual learning**). The waivers in this section are intended to provide needed flexibility to support school food authorities (SFAs) in continuing to offer nutritious meals when school buildings are closed, and virtual classes are being offered. These waivers would be effective through June 30, 2023.

- Non-Congregate Meal Service [NSLA, 42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(1)(A) and Child Nutrition Act, 42 U.S.C. 1773(b)(1)(A)]
- Meal Service Times [7 CFR 210.10(l) and 220.8(l)]
- Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup [7 CFR 210.10(a), 220.2 (Breakfast), and 220.8(a)]
- Offer Versus Serve [42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(3) and 7 CFR 210.10(e)]

This is a required public notice that PDE, DFN submitted a request to USDA for waivers from the aforementioned regulations and does not imply the waivers have been approved at this time.

Questions may be directed to Vonda Ramp at vramp@pa.gov.